



가

18

108

25%

가

0( ), 1( )

25%

2( )

3

(kappa=0.88, very good)

(kappa=0.41, fair)

(kappa=0.63, good)

(kappa=0.41, fair)

가

(cervical radiculopathy) , 가 (4 - 7).

MRI (conventional MRI; CMR)

가 (1),

가 (soft disc)

(Oblique coronal MRI;

OMR)

(2).

가 OMR

OMR

2D (Fourier transform:FT)

(Magnetic Resonance Imaging: MRI)

가

(1).

CMR -

가

MRI

(radiograph)

(3),

(oblique)

, MRI

가

CMR

1

2

2002 6 11

2002 9 4

OMR

18 ( 11, 7, 19-67 ( 46.4  
 )) C4-5,  
 C5-6, C6-7 ( 108 )

MRI 1.5 T  
 (Gyrosan Intera T15. Philips Medical System, Best,  
 Netherlands) . CMR  
 Spin Echo (SE) T1 (TR/TE  
 630/10, Slice thickness/gap 3.0 mm/0 mm, FOV 200 mmx  
 180 mm, matrix size 178/512, NSA 10, Scan time 4 min-  
 utes 7seconds), SE T1 (TR/TE 598/12 ,  
 Slice thickness/gap 3.0 mm/0.3 mm, FOV 250 mmx110  
 mm, matrix size 240/512, NSA 6, Scan time 4 minutes 20  
 seconds) FSE T2 (TR/ TE 2730/120,  
 Slice thickness/gap 3.0 mm/0.3 mm, FOV 250 mmx110  
 mm, matrix size 233/512, NSA 6, Scan time 3 minutes 52  
 seconds, echo train length 15) , T2 T2\*  
 FSE (TR/TE 3500/ 120, Slice thick-  
 ness/gap 3.0 mm/ 0.3 mm, FOV 200 mmx180 mm, matrix  
 size 197x512, NSA 4, Scan time 5 minutes 8 seconds,  
 echo train length 17) Fast Field-echo (FFE) (TR/TE  
 468/23, flip angle 25 degrees, Slice thickness/gap 3.0 mm/0  
 mm, FOV 220 mmx140 mm, matrix size 192x512, NSA  
 4, Scan time 3minutes 54 seconds)

OMR 45-50  
 가  
 FSE T2 (TR/TE 3500/120, Slice thickness/gap  
 3.0 mm/0.3 mm, FOV 245 mmx170 mm, matrix size  
 213/512, NSA 3, Scan time 3 minutes 36 seconds, echo  
 train length 17)

가 45  
 , 4 15-20  
 (8).  
 3 가 , CMR, OMR  
 CMR OMR  
 CMR, OMR,  
 가  
 (level) (7)  
 가 , MRI  
 가 CMR  
 가 (posterolateral)

0 '( ), ' 1 '(  
 25% 가 ), ' 2 '(

가 MRI  
 25% )  
 (visual assessment)  
 0 ' , 가  
 25%  
 25% ' 1 '  
 (facet joint) 20%  
 20%  
 40% , ' 2 '  
 i) , 3 CMR, OMR,  
 average kappa value (9)  
 OMR  
 가  
 (consensus) , 3 2  
 3 가 ' 가'  
 ii) CMR -  
 kappa value, OMR -  
 kappa value



**Fig. 1.** A 34-year-old female. Two consecutive T2-weighted (3500/120) SE oblique coronal images (OMR) show normal foramina.

CMR, OMR,  
Table 1

i) average kappa  
CMR 0.41 (fair), OMR 0.88 (very good),  
0.82 (very good)

ii) kappa CMR -  
0.41 (fair), OMR -  
0.63 (good) (Table 2 - 4 ).

OMR

가

(10)

, Modic

**Table 1.** Number of Bony Stenosis of Neural Foramina in the Cervical Spine, Judged from Three Different Imaging Modalities

Degree of stenosis	Grade 2	Grade 1	Grade 0
Imaging			
CMR*	26	15	66
OMR	33	7	68
Radiograph	19	19	70

CMR: conventional MR; combined axial and sagittal MRI  
OMR: oblique coronal MRI

Grade 2: Bony stenosis exceeding 25% of normal AP dimension  
Grade 1: Bony stenosis less than 25% of normal AP dimension  
Grade 0: No bony stenosis

\*No agreement was reached regarding CMR (conventional MR; combined axial and sagittal MRI) findings for one foramen. The same foramen was unanimously interpreted as negative for bony stenosis at both radiography and oblique coronal MR.

**Table 2.** Grades of Bony Stenosis of Cervical Neural Foramina in OMR and Radiograph

Grade of stenosis On OMR*	2	1	0
Grade of Stenosis on radiograph			
2	19	0	0
1	9	5	5
0	5	2	63

kappa = 0.63 (good)  
OMR: oblique coronal MRI

Grade

2: Bony stenosis exceeding 25% of normal AP dimension  
1: Bony stenosis less than 25% of normal AP dimension  
0: No bony stenosis

T1 SE

3D GE

(4), Ross  
MRI

가

(5).

OMR

CMR

(12)  
(magnetic susceptibility)  
가  
가  
(11). MRI

CMR

(3)

**Table 3.** Grades of Bony Stenosis of Cervical Neural Foramina in CMR and Radiograph

Grade of stenosis on CMR*	2	1	0
Grade of Stenosis on radiograph			
2	15	2	2
1	7	3	9
0	4	10	55

kappa = 0.41 (fair)

CMR: conventional MR; combined axial and sagittal MRI

Grade

2: Bony stenosis exceeding 25% of normal AP dimension  
1: Bony stenosis less than 25% of normal AP dimension  
0: No bony stenosis

**Table 3.** Grades of Bony Stenosis of Cervical Neural Foramina in CMR and OMR

Grade of stenosis on OMR*	2	1	0
Grade of Stenosis on CMR			
2	22	1	3
1	3	1	11
0	8	5	53

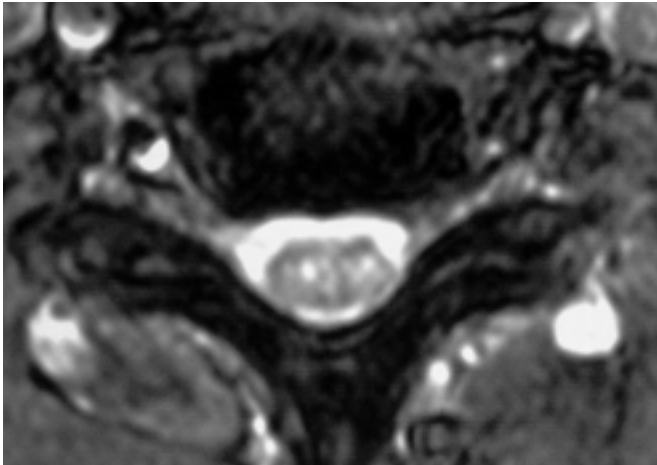
kappa = 0.45 (fair)

CMR: conventional MR; combined axial and sagittal MRI  
OMR: oblique coronal MRI

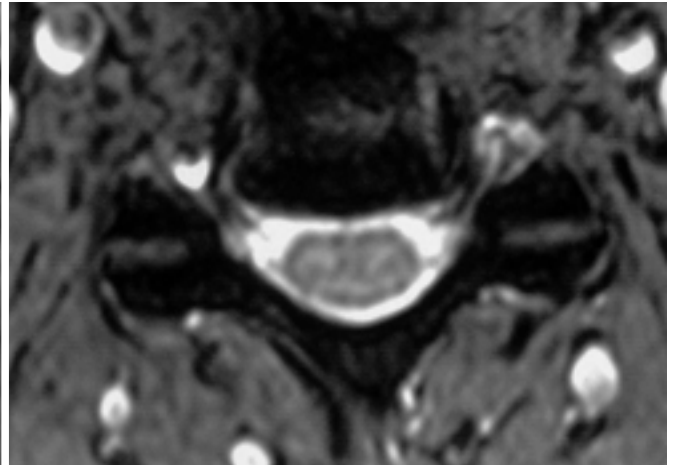
Grade

2: Bony stenosis exceeding 25% of normal AP dimension  
1: Bony stenosis less than 25% of normal AP dimension  
0: No bony stenosis

가 MRI  
3  
CT (14,  
(15)  
MRI, CMR (4)  
가 (hard disc)  
(7) (Fig. 3B).  
(13) MRI  
(13) 가, CMR  
가  
3  
OMR  
(Fig. 2)  
OMR (kappa=  
0.88)  
OMR  
(1, 11 ; 2, 5 )가  
(1, 5 )  
가



A



B



C



D

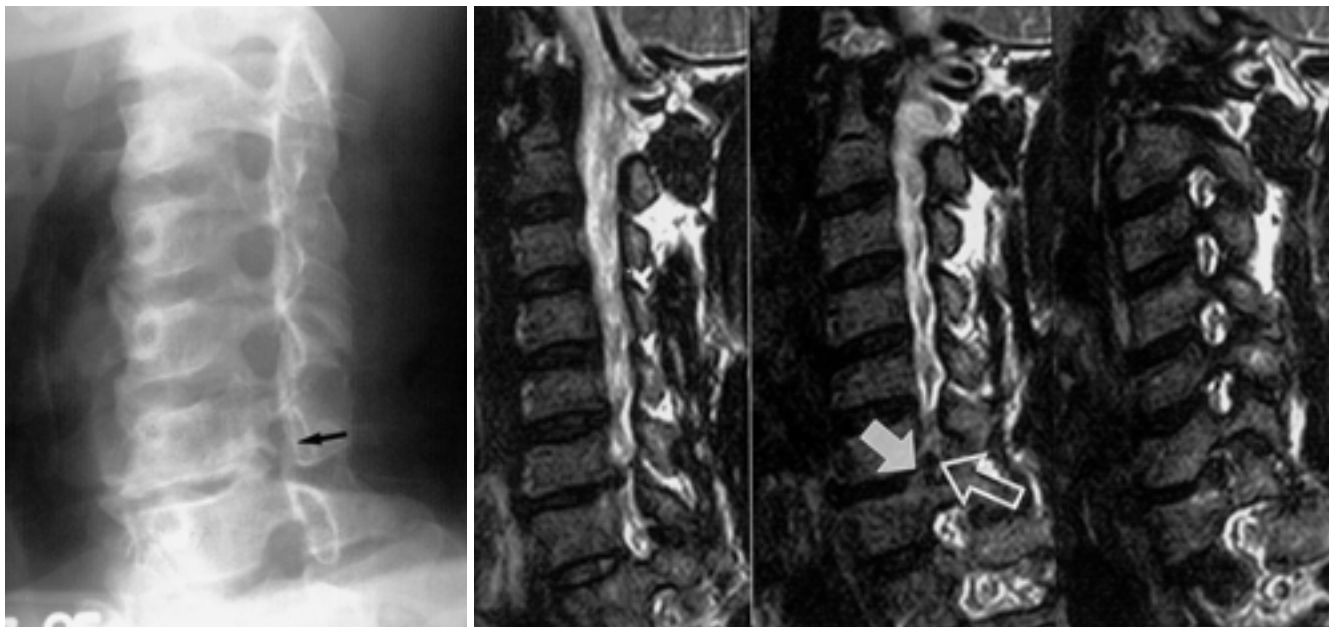
**Fig. 2.** A 53-year-old male.

**A.** T2\*-weighted axial image (Fast Field-echo (FFE), 468/23, flip angle 25°) at the level of C6-7 was interpreted as graded 1 bony stenosis on the right side.

**B.** Normal foramen in the same patient for comparison.

**C.** T2-weighted (3500/120) OMR image of the right-side foramina. It was interpreted unanimously that there was soft disc (arrow) at the level of C6/7, hence grade 0 bony stenosis.

**D.** Radiograph in the left-anterior oblique projection confirms lack of bony stenosis.



**Fig. 3.** A 43-year-old male.  
**A.** Radiograph in right-anterior oblique projection shows severe (grade 2) narrowing of the C 6 - 7 left neural foramen (arrow).  
**B.** Three consecutive T2-weighted (TR/TE 3500/120) SE OMR images show obliteration of the normal high signal in the foramen by an encroaching hard disc. It was unanimous that there was grade 2 narrowing. Note how bony spur (arrow) is distinguished from dark-signal disc material (open arrow).

**C-D.** T1(**C**) 630/10 and T2\* Fast Field-echo (**D**) (468/23, flip angle 25°) - axial images at level of C6 - 7 also demonstrate bilateral severe narrowing of the foramina. However, it was difficult to judge whether bony spur or soft disc had caused the narrowing of the left foramen: one of the participants graded the narrowing as 1, whereas others graded it as 2.

MRI (16) OMR 가 (gold standard)  
 가 OMR MRI가 가  
 OMR MRI (16) OMR 가 OMR가 가가  
 OMR (6) 110 , 3D FFE FSE OMR OMR  
 CMR - 가

, OMR

가

CMR

CMR

CMR -

OMR

가

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## Oblique Coronal MRI in the Evaluation of Bony Stenosis of the Cervical Foramina: Objectiveness and Correlation with Radiograph<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** To determine the utility of oblique coronal MR (OMR) imaging in the evaluation of bony foraminal narrowing of the cervical spine by comparison of its findings with those of combined axial and sagittal MR (CMR) imaging and correlation with the findings of oblique radiography.

**Materials and Methods:** One hundred and eight cervical neural foramina in 18 patients formed the basis of this study. Three radiologists working in a blind fashion independently graded the degree of bony narrowing of the foramina seen on OMR and CMR images and on oblique radiographs (0 = none, 1 = stenosis below 25% of AP dimension, 2 = stenosis exceeding 25% of AP dimension). Inter-observer variance was measured for each modality, and for each of these and for each foramen, consensus was reached as to whether of CMR or OMR showed better correlation with radiographs.

**Results:** Inter-observer variance in OMR was less ( $\kappa=0.88$ ) than in CMR ( $\kappa=0.41$ ). Correlation between the findings of OMR and radiography was also better ( $\kappa=0.63$ ) than between those of CMR and radiography ( $\kappa=0.41$ ).

**Conclusion:** OMR can be a useful supplement in evaluating foraminal stenosis, especially when oblique radiographs and CMR images show discrepancies.

**Index words :** Magnetic resonance (MR), technology  
Spine, MR  
Spine, abnormalities

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